



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, July 7, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

Domestic Programs

Giant Hogweed - Oregon is well into a survey for giant hogweed (GH). An additional 17 sites have been found thus far this year adding to 63 previously known sites of infestation. Treatment measures involve a combination of both private and public treatments of infected sites. Most of the sites are small and on private land. ODA provides a best management practice brochure to private homeowners, and encourages them, with a large measure of success, to treat the GH.

Tropical Soda Apple – State and Federal officials in Arkansas are working with the owner of the privately owned acreage (about 650 acres) to determine the extent of topical soda apple (TSA) infestation, and the need for eradication efforts. Methods of survey and of eradication are being explored.

Contact: Al Tasker (301) 734-5708

Alan.V.Tasker@USDA.GOV

Sudden oak death - Until recently, *P. ramorum* was mostly a concern to its southern neighbors, California and Oregon. Interest there has grown with the recent find of *P. ramorum* in some plants in a Des Moines nursery. Washington State University is sponsoring a "Sudden Oak Death Information Meeting" all day on 9 July. A capacity 140 interested stakeholders have registered. Presentations will be made by U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Washington State Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as APHIS-PPQ and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Industry led panel discussions are also scheduled, with panels representing ornamentals, Christmas trees, small fruit, native plants and forestry. The PPQ Program Manager will present Federal regulatory issues including details of the national survey results.

Contact: Jonathan Jones (301) 734-5038

Jonathan.M.Jones@USDA.GOV

Asian gypsy moth - Funds have been transferred to the Russian Center for Forest Health (RCFH) pursuant to a Cooperative Agreement that provides for monitoring of Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) populations in forest areas in proximity to seven far eastern Russian ports. Under the Agreement, the RCFH places traps and collects data of AGM population dynamics. The data are provided to USDA-APHIS and Forest Service for the purposes of assessing the periods of risk for movement of AGM on ships calling at these ports, identifying ships that represent high risk and targeting them for inspection upon arrival at U.S. ports, and enhancing scientific knowledge about the year-to-year cycling of AGM population levels.

Several items of research have been identified as high priority in collaboration with CPHST/Otis to support the development of a comprehensive pine shoot beetle management plan for bark. Pine bark in the form of mulch is an economically important commodity. The management plan will provide alternatives to industry not currently available through the regulatory process, and relax the demands on APHIS field resources without compromising regulatory effectiveness.

Contact: Weyman Fussell (301) 734-5705

Weyman.Fussell@USDA.GOV

Emergency Programs

Emerald ash borer - A group of Michigan legislators visited Lansing last week to learn about Emerald Ash Borer and the problems it is creating in ash trees in their state. USDA Interim Project Director Mike South presented information to the group about the morphology of the pest, current finds in Michigan, research being conducted to assist with eradication efforts, control/eradication zones, treatments, and the federal perspective on eradication activities. The legislators went on to tour infested areas with damage and to review marshalling yards available to the public to help prevent spread of the insect by providing locations to properly dispose of ash wood.

Contact: Mike Stefan (301) 734-4387

Michael.B.Stefan@USDA.GOV